

The Victorian Alliance of San Francisco Annual House Tour
Noe Valley-Horner's Addition
Program and Guide

Sunday, October 21st 2007, 1-5 pm



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In January of this year, the Alliance lost one of its major contributors with the passing of longtime member Roger McNeill, who over the years repeatedly opened his beautiful Victorian home for Alliance tours and monthly meetings, co-chaired several House Tours, and served as an officer. Especially at this time during our Annual House Tour, which he so enthusiastically supported, we remember Roger and are grateful for his many generous contributions.

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Congratulations to
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Welcome from the Victorian Alliance of San Francisco

Welcome to our 2007 house tour. Our annual tour is a tie that binds us to common purposes: informing the public of the value of San Francisco's residential heritage and raising funds in support of restoration and preservation projects. It is also an inclusive event for our members and the public. I hope you enjoy your tour and stroll through Noe Valley's charming streets and find out for yourself why this neighborhood is one of San Francisco's most historic and yet livable.

We are extremely grateful to the Noe Valley homeowners who have opened their homes for our tour and who have spent many hours preparing them for our visit. We are thankful to the congregants and clergy who have shared their sacred space with us today. Without their kindness the tour would not be possible. Thanks also to co-chairs, docents, house captains and all of the volunteers who have worked on the house tour throughout the year to make today's event a success. A special thanks to our new patrons for your support of this year's tour and to the many of you who return every year.

As you walk through neighborhood streets you may notice many homes in a row with identical façade details. This is a testament to the many carpenter builders who built sturdy homes for the middle class at the turn of the nineteenth century. You will find, however, this year's homes to be interesting for their variety of restoration and renovation, interior decoration and garden spaces. This is a testament to the current owners' love for their homes and desire to create an enduring legacy for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen B. Haigh

About the Victorian Alliance

The Victorian Alliance was organized in 1973 to promote preservation and restoration. Our members and guest speakers share information on preservation, history, architecture, and decorative arts at our monthly meetings as well as in our monthly bulletin. We also share helpful information on such things as materials, techniques, contractors, and artisans with those wishing to restore their Victorian buildings. We lobby and testify on preservation issues at city and neighborhood meetings, and reinforce our efforts with donations for neighborhood projects dealing with restoration and preservation. Most of our financial resources come from funds raised by Alliance activities such as house tours, garden tours and garage sales. We are a volunteer organization with no paid staff so almost all the funds we raise are available to support preservation and restoration projects. We also present social functions such as our annual holiday party, which has become a celebrated tradition. We invite your participation at whatever level your interests and time permit. We meet the last Wednesday of each month, except for November and December. Please call (415) 824-2666 for the location of our next meeting.



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The Victorian Alliance of San Francisco
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The History of Noe Valley

IN THE HEART of San Francisco, there is a quiet residential neighborhood that has earned a reputation for being a “village within the city.” A traditional working-class neighborhood, it gradually evolved into a highly desirable residential area for people who sought to have the amenities of a smaller village without having to leave the confines of the city.

In the years before the arrival of Europeans, the indigenous peoples may well have lived in what is now Noe Valley—and they almost certainly hunted deer here—but there is no evidence of a major settlement having existed prior to the arrival of the Spanish. In March 1776, a party led by Juan Bautista de Anza and Jose Joaquin Moraga arrived in what is now San Francisco. They were looking for sites near San Francisco Bay for both a presidio—or military post—and a mission. They selected a site about a quarter of a mile northeast of Noe Valley and named it Arroyo de Nuestra Senora de los Dolores (Valley of Our Lady of Sorrows). The mission that was eventually established near here is still known as Mission Dolores.

As with much of the rest of the Bay Area, land in what is now Noe Valley was granted by the government to ranchers and families who had been living in California since before Mexico had declared its independence from Spain. Among the land grants within present San Francisco were those issued to families such as De Haro, Leese, Bernal, Galindo, and Noe. Two-time San Francisco *alcalde* (mayor) Jose de Jesus Noe received the grant for Rancho de San Miguel, which includes what is now Noe Valley.

If Jose de Jesus Noe can be considered the namesake of Noe Valley, it can be argued that John Meirs Horner was the father of Noe Valley. Before Noe Valley became known as Noe Valley, it was known as “Horner’s Addition,” after the man who turned the rolling pastures of Rancho de San Miguel into some semblance of an urban neighborhood. In 1846, Horner arrived in what is now San Francisco and purchased a slice of Rancho de San Miguel. Planning to sell lots for homes, Horner laid out the present street grid and named the streets. He named one of his new thoroughfares Elizabeth Street in honor of Mrs. Horner.

During the late 19th century, Noe Valley gradually made the transition from ranch to farm to working-class suburb filled with homes and businesses constructed in the picturesque Victorian architectural style that is still part of the character of

Noe Valley. Three of the most important builders of Victorian homes in Noe Valley were Jonathan Anderson, Joseph Comerford, and Fernando Nelson. The prices for these homes ranged from as little as \$20 per room for a cottage to upwards of \$420 per room for a large, ornate Victorian. Carpenters and electricians were paid 50 cents per hour, but bricklayers were paid 75 cents. Unfortunately, many homes wound up with brick foundations, which are potentially unstable during an earthquake. Nevertheless, many Noe Valley buildings with brick foundations survived all three of the major San Francisco quakes of the 20th century in 1906, 1957 and 1989.

Noe Valley is also well known for its churches. The oldest Catholic church and the largest church located on Church Street is St. Paul’s near Valley Street. Work on the present church began in 1897. The construction of the church took 14 years because the pastor, Reverend Michael Connolly, insisted that each phase of construction be paid for—through raffles and church bazaars—before moving on to the next. Indeed, most of the work was done on a voluntary basis by parishioners who were members of the building trades. Regarded as a masterpiece of American Gothic Revival architecture, the big twin-spired building was designed by architect Frank Shea, who did a great deal of memorable work in the ecclesiastical field.

At the opposite end of Noe Valley from St. Paul’s is St. Philip the Apostle Church on Diamond Street at the corner of Elizabeth Street. The present church building was dedicated in 1925. In August 1938, St. Philip’s added its Mission Style elementary school, which is still located adjacent to the church on Elizabeth Street. St. Philip’s is perhaps best known in Noe Valley for its annual festival, which is regarded by many as a de facto Noe Valley “County Fair.” Held annually on the last weekend of September, the St. Philip’s Festival features games for all ages and live entertainment.

A major architectural feature at St. Philip’s is the bell tower that is located on the northwestern side of the church. The parish has an active bell ringing organization that rings the church’s big bronze bell on Sundays and special occasions. Known as the St. Philip’s Belfry Society, the organization adopted the motto “*Titinabulum noxia fugo*,” meaning that the ringing of bells gives flight to harmful things. Indeed, this notion can be said to be an allegory for living in such a neighborhood as quiet, peaceful Noe Valley.


BY BILL YENNE

FROM HIS BOOK: SAN FRANCISCO’S NOE VALLEY

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61 Vicksburg Street

CHARLES AND ANNIE M. RULING RESIDENCE

SIXTY-ONE VICKSBURG STREET is a mix of Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles. The beautiful exterior details include Ionic and stylized Corinthian capitals and interesting carved porch spandrels. The water was turned on October 22, 1898, dating its construction to that year.

The first owner of the house was Charles Ruling, a shipbuilder by trade. He was born May 21, 1865 of German parents and immigrated to the United States in 1870.

Charles Ruling married Annie Krause, who was born August 15, 1875 in California. They had four children, three of whom survived childhood: Charles R., born in 1894; Albert Henry, born in 1895; and Beatrice E., born in 1897. By October 1907, the Ruling family had moved to Seventh Avenue.

After the Rulings left the house, nothing is known about the occupants until the Burns, a large Irish family, who resided there from 1963 to 1982. They had eight children and were responsible for adding the garage, which extended to the backyard. From 1982 to 1984 the house was owned by the Follets, a couple who gutted the entire house, created a third floor attic, restored the outside woodwork and paint, and converted the house into a very livable residence. In 1984 Reed McCurry purchased the house but made few changes.

The current owners Charley and Bob Zeches bought the house in the fall of 1999. They began a gradual, continuing process of renovation. Immediately after acquiring the house, they removed all the old carpeting on the first floor and laid down Brazilian Cherry. In 2001, they replaced the decks on the back of the house and completely revamped the landscaping. At that time the backyard was dominated by a cement parking pad and the rest was overgrown with ivy and weeds. They tore out the unsightly cement, graded the yard into two levels and installed a brick patio. They also constructed a back fence and planted rose bushes along it. The original podocarpus and smoke trees were preserved.

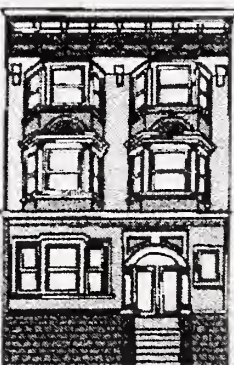
In 2002 the second floor master bath and guest bath were renovated, the master bedroom was made smaller and the 'his-and-her' closets added. In 2003 the kitchen was completely remodeled, changing it from a galley kitchen with an adjacent seating area, to a larger kitchen with an island at one end and an open play-space for children at the other end. Recently the guest bedroom was changed into a second child's bedroom with skylights and a partition, creating two separate spaces. Convenient built-in shelving was also incorporated.



The third floor attic space has also recently been developed. Please take a moment to enjoy the 180-degree view from inside the space. While inside the house, also look for the two unique paintings done by elephants!

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163 Jersey Street

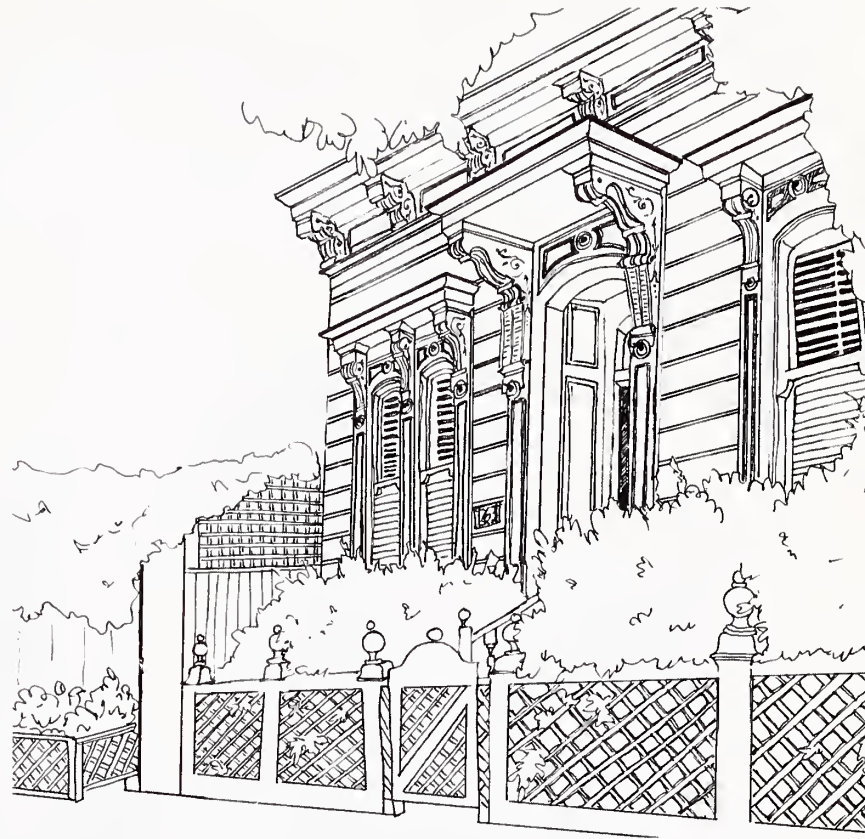
TIMOTHY AND ELLEN NYHAN RESIDENCE

ACCORDING TO HISTORICAL information this flat-front Italianate house was built in 1885. However, its style indicates that it could have been built in the 1870's; there is a possibility that it had been moved from another address or location, thus actually predating its recorded construction date on this site. The exterior details and form are very similar to many other flat-fronted Italianate houses of the 1870's.

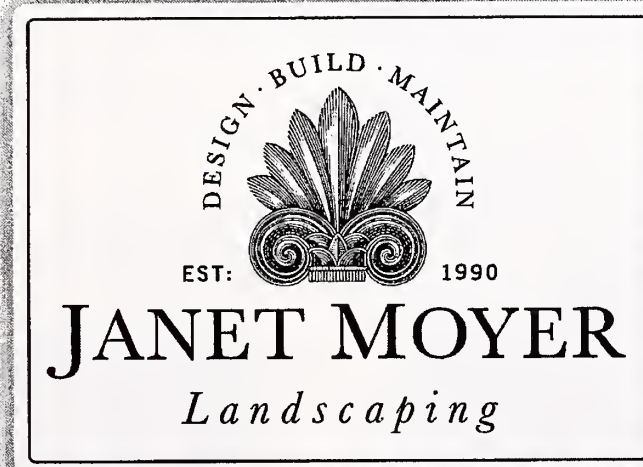
The front elevation is symmetrical, with double windows spaced equally on either side of the entrance door. A simple cornice tops it, with carved brackets separated by panelized sections. There are large window hoods with their own respective brackets and ornately carved brackets supporting the entrance hood. Simply hewn plaques on either side of a center button surmount the arched windows; buttons also descend from the base of the brackets.

Timothy and Ellen Nyhan occupied the home in its early years. Continuing until 1969, several generations of Nyhans resided there.

Between 1969 and 1983 there were four owners. In 1983 Everson Landis purchased the home and made significant changes. He added the garage facing Vicksburg Street, which accommodates one car; above the garage an artist's studio was added. Everson also modified the lower floor, which is below street level, and designed the terraced English garden.



The current owners, Dale Fehringer and Patty McCrary purchased the home in 1991, at which time it was described as "Picture Perfect." They have added a fireplace, greenhouse and a guest room above the garage. It is rumored amongst neighbors that "The Cat Woman" once lived here along with her 20 felines! Even though this house is small, due to its picturesque street appeal, corner location and secluded garden setting, it is a local favorite.



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1051 Noe Street and 497 Elizabeth Street

BENEDICT AND ANNA PFARRER RESIDENCE

THIS QUEEN ANNE Tower house is believed to have been built by its first owner, Benedict Pfarrer, along with one of his sons—either Alex R. or Charles Theodore. Construction began in 1890 and was completed in 1891. Benedict resided here with his wife Anna Mary, who passed away in 1904, sometime after Benedict himself died.

This three-story Queen Anne tower house with Italianate and Eastlake features is rare; only 370 tower-adorned home structures currently remain in San Francisco. This one is particularly interesting due to its octagonal corner bay and side-projecting rectangular bays—topped by gabled roofs that provide a picturesque appearance. Please note the unusual overhanging eaves. Designed as two flats with separate entrances on adjacent streets, the façade features a proliferation of Stick Eastlake detailing: hobnail, saw-tooth, diamond and fish-scale shingle patterns, as well as jigsaw-carved friezes. Don't forget to notice the original and matching wooden doors.

The house was sold to the Navarra family in 1915 presumably by Benedict's sons. Joseph Navarra and his wife Mary resided here with daughters Lily Calabrese and Pauline Nicola. After their mother died in the 1980's, the Calabrese and Nicola sisters kept the house until its current owners, Eric Anschutz and Jennifer Toton purchased it in 2005.

The interior features original fir, oak and redwood floors; redwood and plaster moldings; redwood bead board; and ceramic tile. This building is listed in the 1968 Junior League book, *Here Today* and is considered to be in the top ten percent of the city's architecturally significant buildings.

Eric and Jennifer are presently in the process of major interior restoration. Over 30 doors have been dipped to remove the old paint, and all the moldings have been saved so that they will be returned to the original wood finish. The goal of the owners is to restore the building to its original splendor.



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449 Alvarado Street

LOUIS AND BERTHA LINSS RESIDENCE

THE ECLECTIC MIX of Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles relates this house to 439, 443, and 453 Alvarado Street, which were all built in 1897. However, the front staircase, which appears to be original in its design, is in the Eastlake style. The water was turned on at this address on June 8, 1898. Note the Ionic capitals on the window pilasters, the carved second story frieze of ribbons and swags, and the laurel wreath with entwined ribbons, emblematic of victory. A frieze of rosettes extends above the first floor windows. The diamond shingled pediment is topped by a cartouche.

Louis Linss may have been the original owner and is listed in the 1900 census as residing here. He was born in Germany in 1868 and came to the United States at the age of 17 in 1885. He first worked as a waiter and then became partner in the Wertz and Linss Liquor business. In 1907 his occupation is listed as "the business of Liquors." His wife Bertha was born in Germany in 1866. They had three sons: Herman, born 1890; Louis, born 1891; and Fred, born 1892. The Fred Linss family lived in the home until 1967, the same year that the Junior League created files for its book *Here Today*.

An extension to the rear of the house was made under the ownership of Gab Silverman in the 1960's.

The current owners, Lois Salisbury and Dr. Robert Sinaiko, purchased the house in 1984 and raised their children here. Recently they have been busy improving the garden and replacing the deck stairs. Please note the cleverly designed cat door and cat box on the inside, by the rear porch.



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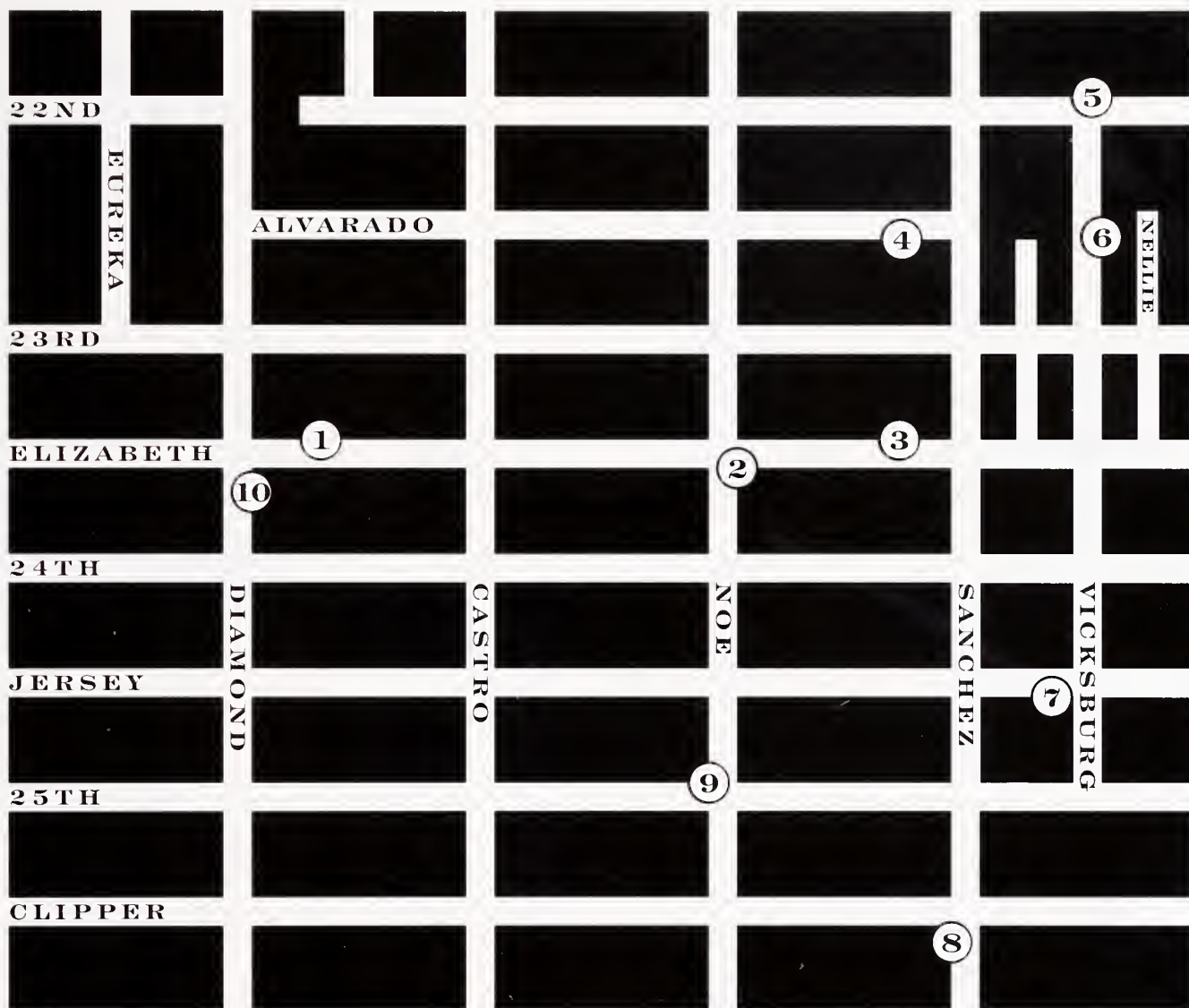
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This is a self-guided tour. You may visit the homes in any order you wish. For those who need assistance, a shuttle will circulate periodically in the order listed below.

1. 656 and 658 Elizabeth Street *Day-of-tour tickets can be purchased here.*
2. 1051 Noe Street and 497 Elizabeth Street
3. 436 Elizabeth Street
4. 449 Alvarado Street
5. 3640 22nd Street
6. 61 Vicksburg Street
7. 163 Jersey Street
8. 1268 Sanchez Street, Bethany United Methodist Church

After you have seen the sanctuary, we invite you to enjoy some refreshments in the Social Hall, where you will have the opportunity to meet Color Consultant Bob Buckter and to visit the Alliance Gift Shop, this year featuring notecards, the *Victorian Alliance Cookbook*, great buys on used books, and a special silent auction to bid on a "Holiday Tea for Ten" at a Victorian mansion. And, don't forget to register for our Door Prizes.

9. 1190 Noe Street *Those who purchased tickets in advance start the tour here.*
10. 725 Diamond Street, St. Phillip the Apostle Church

436 Elizabeth Street

MABILLAN WILLIAM McMILLAN FIRST RESIDENCE

MABILLAN McMILLAN, a carpenter-builder, constructed this house in 1890, when he was 28. Originally, it appears to have been a one-story structure. The Sanborn map of 1900 shows two small buildings on this lot—one at the rear (350 square feet) and one at the front (890 square feet). There was also a stable on the northern border of the property line.

Mabillan, a native of Missouri, was born in 1861, while his wife was born in Germany in 1862. The McMillans resided here until 1893, when they moved to the new house Mabillan had built at 656 Elizabeth, which is also on the tour.

Census records show that John McKeown owned the property in 1900. He was a stationary engineer with San Francisco Gas and Electric Company, who came to the United States in 1870 from Ireland. His wife Winifred, also a native of Ireland, was born in 1867. They had two children: John S., born in 1897, and Ruth E., born in 1899.

Voting records show that Mr. Edwin Engle Lloyd, a police officer (age 44), lived here in 1909. In 1911, James V. Symington, a clerk (age 34), and William Edmond Roberts, a mill hand also resided here. They may have occupied the rear cottage. In 1930 the property was transferred to Ruth E. Pelsinger and John S. McKeown from Winifred McKeown.

The current owners, Sofie and Chris Dolan are both architects and have completely rebuilt the main house. They added a second story and penthouse room with a rooftop deck. The façade is a combination of the original wood and new wood milled to match in the original Stick Eastlake style. The detail is appropriately sized with deep eaves and a detailed geometrically incised frieze above the second story windows. This house is a good example of new construction that is sympathetic to the Victorian streetscape. Please do not miss seeing the restored rear cottage.



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656 and 658 Elizabeth Street

MABILLAN WILLIAM McMILLAN
SECOND RESIDENCE

MABILLIAN McMILLAN also created this double house in 1893 at age 31. The building is an excellent example of the full use of a wider lot (28 ½ feet). The two residences share a common wall, and each has its individual entrance. The owner's unit, 658, includes an upper attic story, whereas 656 is a single story.

The Queen Anne style is defined here by the three-window slanted bay and peaked roof with finials. The building appears to be a single house, with its grand staircase and draped entry porch. Note the stylized quarter sunbursts on the window eaves and the turned droplets. The gabled roof tympanums display carved designs that stylistically match the frieze detail of carved steer heads.

Mabillan lived at 436 Elizabeth (also on the tour) while building this house. Records show him residing at 656 Elizabeth in 1894 to 1895; then back to 436 from 1896 to 1897; then at 658 from 1898 to 1905. He may have built many houses on the street, as he is also shown living at what was then 644 Elizabeth from 1907 to 1910. On the 1906 plot map it is recorded that he owned the homes that are now numbered 614 and 614 ½ and 644 Elizabeth and that he had moved to 644 Elizabeth by 1908.

Census documents from 1900 show P. Kelly, born in Ireland in 1870, residing at 656 with his Irish wife who was born in 1875. Tax records show that the property was subsequently transferred from Louisa Pfandler to Joseph Pfandler in 1935.

Richard Jordon, who resides in 658, purchased the building in 1971 from a mother whose two sons had used 656 as a play space. At that time it was in very poor condition, with asbestos shingles covering much of the exterior. In 1989 Richard removed the shingles and added the interesting frieze and gable details. A friend suggested the steer motif in the frieze because Richard is an avid collector of bovine objects. As you go through 658 please take note of the antique stoves as well as other personal collections.

When you step onto the rear terrace, the first thing to admire is the gorgeous maple tree. Spend a few minutes in the large rear yard which features a fountain and gazebo. Return to the house and enter the rear of 656. Carl Hajduk and Billy Clift who reside there have lovingly restored the interior in a French Victorian style. In the bedroom a huge Egyptian Revival bed is impressive. The French style parlor walls have been hand-stenciled by Billy Clift.



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3640 22nd Street

GEORGE AND LAURA KEMP RESIDENCE

THE WATER WAS turned on in this post-earthquake bungalow style house on October 7, 1907. The partially enclosed porch with its colored glass may have been added later along with the dormer and basement window. Built during the Arts and Crafts period, the style is well suited to its hillside location. The front yard provides a restful approach and the original iron fence and gate unify the exterior.

The original owner was George C. Kemp, who lived in the house from 1907 to 1945. Mr. Kemp was born in England on August 27, 1871, and became a U.S. citizen in 1891. His wife, Laura Davis was born in Michigan on November 13, 1868. They had two children, both of whom had died by 1910. In 1893, Mr. Kemp was working as a jeweler with Kemp Bros. at 2002 Market Street, but by 1908, he was an optician at 393 Fillmore Street.

Subsequently, the Phipps family bought this house. It stayed in their family and was then given to a nephew. In 1968, after he passed away, the home was bequeathed to his nurse, who later sold it to the current owners, Bob Killian and his late wife Ellen.



At one time there was a front and rear garage door as well as a separate garage building situated in the back yard. The Killians added a lovely family area to the back of the home that integrates well with the other rooms. The sensitive addition of period art glass windows to the dining and family rooms further enhances the Arts and Crafts style of the interior. The second floor has been reconfigured but also retains some historic features.

Bob Killian has recently retired from the Recreation and Parks Department, where he worked for 35 years as a gardener and supervisor. Please enjoy the wonderful rear garden with its gazebo, and take in the superb view. As you can see Bob certainly has a green thumb.

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AXFORD MANSION



THE AXFORD MANSION is San Francisco Landmark No. 133 and was built in 1877 by William Axford. He and his brother had immigrated to the United States from Scotland during the Civil War; utilizing their skills as metalsmiths and ironworkers, they produced cannon shot for the Northern army. William eventually moved west and settled in San Francisco. Old San Francisco city directories describe him as living in what is now the Mission District until 1877. The directory for that year records Mr. Axford as living at the “North West corner of Noe and 25th Streets.” Mr. Axford was owner of the Mission Iron Works and the Enterprise Ironworks.

The house together with the carriage house and another building to the west is an example of early rural scale development in the neighborhood. Although city records indicate this house was built when the Italianate style was popular, the square bay windows are typical of the Stick Eastlake period. The cornice brackets, panelized frieze and bay window bases are also characteristic Italianate features. The Queen Anne style porch is a later addition, as is the classical revival window molding on the southern rear face of the building. Some cornice trim may be missing from the second story windows. The carriage house retains its hay lift at the corner.

The original iron fence that still surrounds Axford House, as well as the filigreed railing that no longer graces the roof, were forged by Axford in his foundry. The furnace-hot metal was

cooled by Noe Valley well water, which was carried to the surface by a previously extant windmill pump. City water was not provided to the property until 1905.

As you tour Axford House, notice a 19th century photograph that shows the house as it was, adorned with its original false Mansard roof and decorative railing, standing watch over a not-yet-paved Noe Street. Behind Axford House, the photo shows the windmill-topped Carriage House—which originally was built by Axford as a metal foundry called the Columbia Iron Works, not as a carriage house or barn.

Structural changes to Axford House have been relatively minor over the 130 years since it was built. The one exception is the present day kitchen and the master bathroom above it. The foundry (Carriage House) and main house were not connected originally; the earlier kitchen occupied the dining room that is now in use. During the late 19th or early 20th Century, the upstairs bathroom and the kitchen area were added. The contemporary kitchen has been efficiently re-designed by the owners.

In the 1990's Bradbury & Bradbury wallpapers were added, covering walls that once were adorned (and in places still are) with old decorative papers. Mike Underhill, his wife S.A. Kushinka and their daughter Juliana Kushinka currently own the house. Mike states that a ghost still inhabits the second parlor!

1268 Sanchez Street

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE FIRST METHODIST church in the city was established in 1849 by William Taylor. On November 11, 1877 a Methodist Sunday School opened in an unfinished flat at 29th and Sanchez Streets in Noe Valley. This led to the founding of the Twenty-Seventh Street Methodist Church, which would eventually become Bethany United Methodist Church. The first church building was erected on a rented lot at Day and Sanchez Streets. In 1899 the Twenty-Seventh Street Methodist Episcopal Church changed its name to Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church. The location remained the same on 27th Street. Epworth M. E. Church moved to a new location at 3863 26th Street (corner of 26th and Church Streets) in 1890.

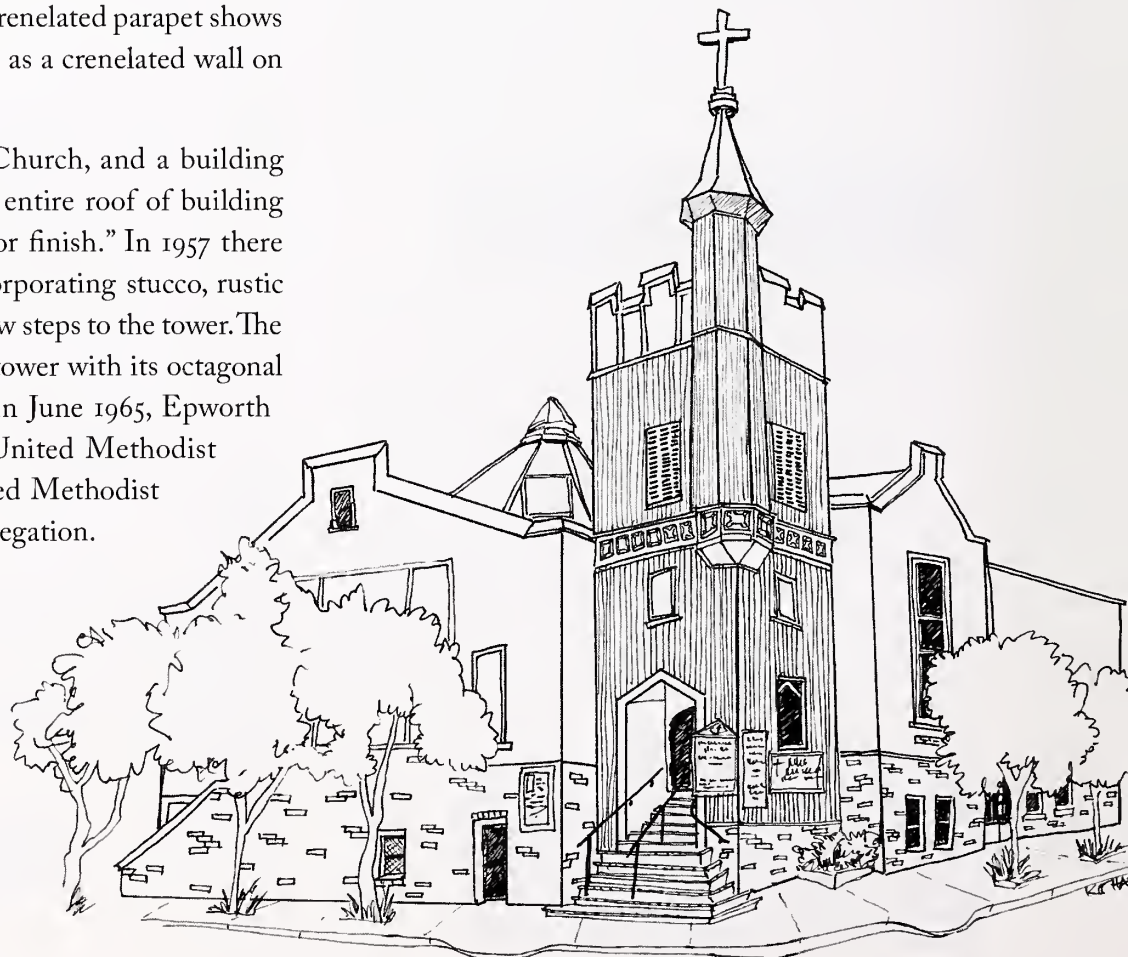
The earthquake and fire of April 18, 1906 severely damaged Epworth M. E. Church, and in 1907 a building permit was filed for a new church at the corner of Sanchez and Clipper Streets. The architect was Montrose Warn with the Kein Bros. as the builder. (Warn was later a staff architect in Los Angeles county and designed buildings for health facilities in the 1920's.) Estimated cost was \$12,000. When dedicated in 1908 the church was described as a frame structure of the modified Mission type. An old photograph shows a shingled exterior, a Bay Area tradition. There were flat Gothic style hood molds above windows and doors. A stepped crenelated parapet shows at the gable on Sanchez Street as well as a crenelated wall on Clipper Street.

In 1913 a fire severely damaged the Church, and a building permit was approved to "remove the entire roof of building and replace the ceiling and all interior finish." In 1957 there was a remodeling of the exterior incorporating stucco, rustic redwood, and brick veneer as well as new steps to the tower. The remodeling retained the original bell tower with its octagonal shape, fortress-like top and steeple. In June 1965, Epworth M. E. Church merged with Grace United Methodist Church and the name Bethany United Methodist Church was chosen for the new congregation.

The sanctuary form is typical of Protestant churches of the period with theater style seating surrounding the pulpit area. Curved pews allow for good views of the service from all locations. The dropped redwood ceiling and arch supports provide an intimate and restful effect. The organ has been expanded over the years with pipes added from Grace and Trinity United Methodist Churches.

From its organization in 1877 until the present time the church has continuously served the people in this neighborhood. Many different pastors have been appointed to Bethany. The current directory lists over 150 members. The congregation is in the planning stages for significant changes to the building which will increase space and allow for more flexible use of the sanctuary. Included are plans to add more light with additional skylights and a south-facing courtyard with French doors.

We invite you to enjoy refreshments in the Social Hall, where you will have the opportunity to meet Color Consultant Bob Buckter and to visit the Alliance Gift Shop, this year featuring notecards, the Victorian Alliance Cookbook, great buys on used books, and a special silent auction to bid on a "Holiday Tea for Ten" at a Victorian mansion. And, don't forget to register for our Door Prizes.



725 *Diamond Street*

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

THE FOUNDING OF St. Philip the Apostle Church and Parish in 1910 satisfied the needs of a growing Roman Catholic Community in the Upper Noe Valley. There are two symbols that grace the sidewalk and street in front of the church. The shamrock painted Kelly green on the sidewalk and the matching green divider stripe on the street are reminders of the large group of Irish families who shared this part of the Valley with their German neighbors.

San Francisco grew rapidly after the devastation of the earthquake and fire, and Noe Valley began to fill up quickly. However, there was no Catholic church in the area, so to fulfill their religious obligations it was necessary for parishioners to travel more than a mile to hear Holy Mass. In 1910 the Most Reverend Patrick W. Riordan, Archbishop of San Francisco, called the Rev. John J. Cullen and gave him instructions to found this new parish in San Francisco. Father Cullen traversed the heart of the proposed parish and parts of its outskirts making a cursory map of its boundaries; he lost no time in founding St. Philip's parish.

The parish rented an old workshop and converted it to a chapel. A lot was later purchased at the corner of Elizabeth and Diamond Streets, and a temporary church was built on Elizabeth Street in 1912. The parochial residence on Diamond was completed in 1913 in the late Gothic style, now altered. The church was later converted to a school, and another building named the Large Hall was used as the sanctuary.

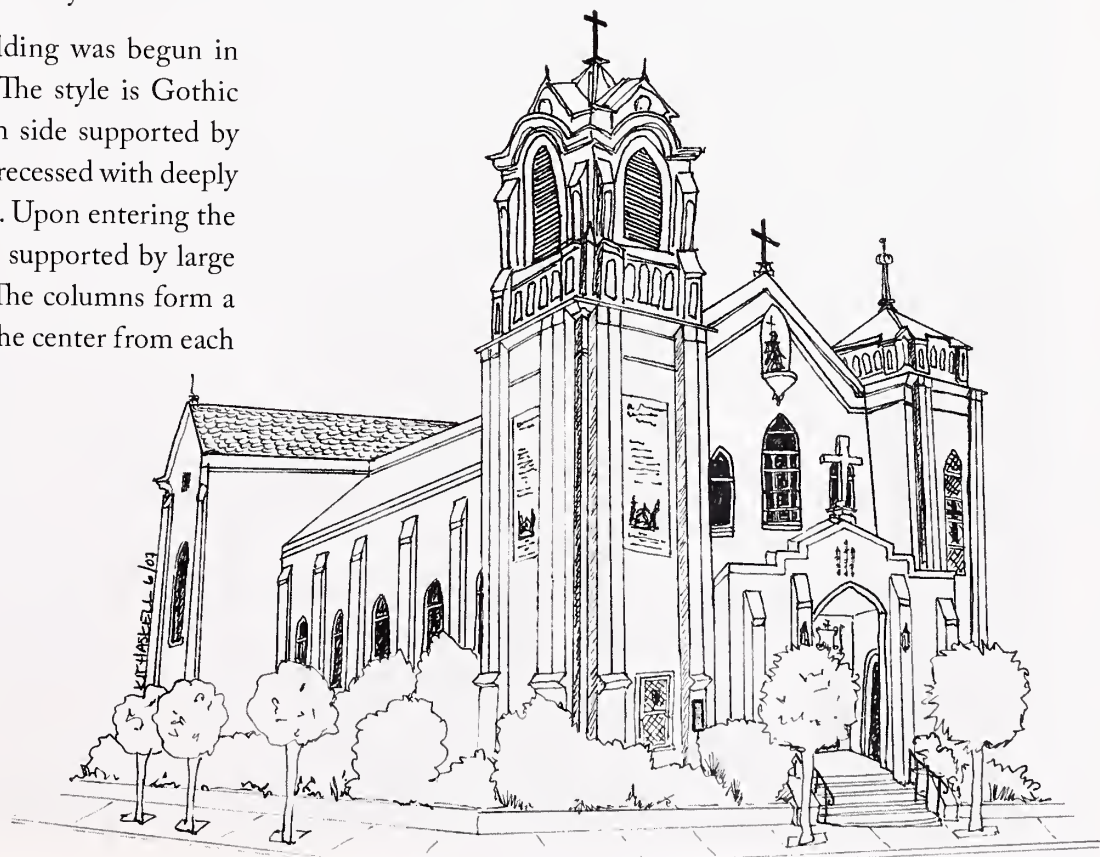
Construction of the current church building was begun in 1925. John J. Foley is listed as architect. The style is Gothic Revival with asymmetrical towers at each side supported by pier buttresses. The Gothic arched entry is recessed with deeply paneled and ornamented hardwood doors. Upon entering the nave you notice the barrel vaulted ceiling supported by large Corinthian topped marbleized columns. The columns form a perfectly symmetrical space and separate the center from each

side. The north and south rows of five columns are separated by Gothic arches each with an original hanging lantern. The arches are symmetrically aligned with the Gothic arched windows enclosing stained and colored glass images of selected Saints, The Virgin Mary, and Jesus.

Under leadership of Father Jerome Hannigan, who was musically inclined, the new church utilized two choir lofts in the transept to facilitate antiphonal singing. Above and below the choir lofts are beautiful windows depicting Christ in the Garden, Christ on the Cross, Christ Ascending, and Mary the Mother. As a result of the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965), the altar was changed in 1964 to face the people, and it was considerably simplified. The main altar and side altars of Carrara marble match in a modern style.

The church school on Elizabeth Street and convent on 24th Street were built in 1938 in the Spanish Colonial style of Mexico by noted architect Martin Rist. Mr. Rist was the architect of St. Cecilia's at Seventeenth Avenue and Vicente, which is Mexican Colonial Revival and Romanesque in style. Father John R. Cantillon, also an Irish native, started Whist card games to raise money for the school, and they became a very popular social event in Noe Valley.

The Parish will celebrate its 100th anniversary in three years and has started a centennial capital campaign to restore and preserve the building. Along with new carpeting, repairs are planned for the roof, stained glass windows, and interior lighting. Mass is celebrated in both English and Spanish, and there is an Irish immigrant chaplain in residence.



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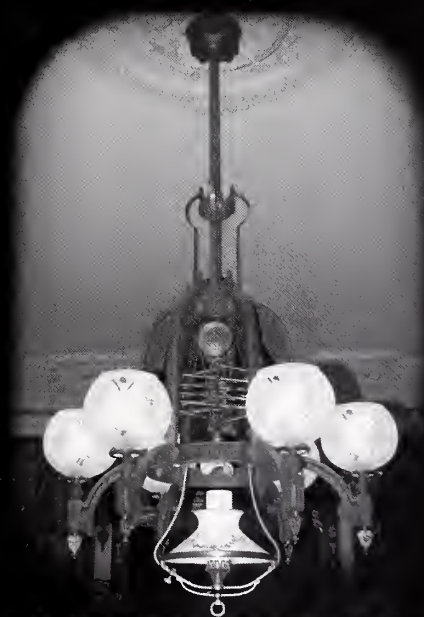
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